this year because seminars were organised in respect of many diseases such as Heart, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer as also about organs separately. Now I am at a loss to understand which seminar he is asking about? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMA SHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated just now that a specific question should be asked. The hon.Minister must have read it. There are many diseases which are interlinked. The hon. Minister should be reply in 'Yes' or 'no' whether Government is contemplating to invite experts of Cancer and AIDS.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the question.

SHRI RAMA SHRAY PRASAD SINGH: I have asked whether any seminar had been organised by inviting foreign experts to fight the disease with any suitable medicine . He says the question is not specific. Why a reference has been made to foreign experts in it?

MR. SPEAKER : You have not read the original question. It is creating problems.

SHRI RAMA SHRAY PRASAD SINGH: I have read the original question.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to do something by inviting foreign experts?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the Government does not propose to invite any foreign experts. Many Conferences have been organised and foreign experts have participated in them. The hon. Member has not asked about the recommendation made by them for specific disease. He may give a separate notice for it.

[*English*]

Then, I will supply the information.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted in his reply. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Discussion does not take place on his reply during the Question Hour. Discussion takes place on your question.

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Central Government, State Government and many other institutions organise these seminars. It has been admitted that seminars are organised. I would like to know how many seminars have been organised by Central Government..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : On what topic?

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: On Cancer, AIDS and other major diseases.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please make the best use of the time allotted.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I am disallowing it.....

Society for voluntary Action for Family Welfare and Health

*579. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to set up a society for Voluntary Action for Family Welfare and Health;

(b) if so, the expenditure envisaged thereon;

(c) the objectives of this society; and

(d) the reasons for setting up a new

venture with high financial implications besides the existing Voluntary Health Association of India and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). The matter is under active consideration of Government.

(d) The existing voluntary organisations including voluntary Health Association of India have a limited reach in the family welfare sector, and it would not be possible to choose any one of them for the role to be assigned to the proposed society. The additional expenditure for setting up this society is likely to be very limited.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister was stating that the seminars were organised. I would like to know whether any such seminar was organised on 4.5.88 which was attended by our present Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao, in his capacity of Minister of Human Resource Development and were by him some recommendations for active consideration. It was a workshop of organisation before active considerations. I would like to ask whether the Government would take into consideration its recommendations.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no such information at present as to what did the then Minister of Health State at that time, on which topic the seminar was organised and what recommendations were made. When I became the Minister, I organised a seminar of NGO's at four or five places throughout the country. On the basis of their recommendations, it was decided as to how the voluntary organisations can be involved in family planning programmes. I can provide information if he so desires.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: You have talked of active consideration. When will the Government form a society? Does the Government contemplate to constitute a coordination committee of all the trust-worthy voluntary organisations in the country and assign them any responsibility. When will the consideration be completed.

[*English*]

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I am happy that the hon. Member has raised this question and he supports Government's initiative for having an autonomous organisation like this. I am very happy. We are proposing to do this for involving genuine social workers throughout the country and for giving them the necessary task for mobilising public opinion so that a national movement is created for population control. I have said that the matter is under consideration of the Government. So far as the Ministry is concerned, the Ministry has given the approval and the Ministry has prepared the Plan. But it is awaiting the concurrence of the Planning Commission in the Finance Ministry. As soon as the cabinet gives approval, I will say that Government has finally taken the decision.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: As per the hon. Minister's statement, it is known that a new voluntary set up is going to be built. In view of that, particularly in this coming Budget year, the Ministry of Health has proposed that a large sum of money will be expended on various non-governmental organisations. If I am not wrong, it has come in the newspaper that it is more than Rs. 100 crores.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Yes. I am asking the question. More than Rs. 100 crores will be going to those organisations.

In view of that, my supplementary is whether it is a backdoor way to privatise the health and family welfare programmes.

MR. SPEAKER If you ask any more questions, you know, your part one will be diluted!

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: (a) How different will be new Voluntary Action Family Welfare and Health for the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare? Is this new set up encouraged of replace the NIHFW or is it going to do something very different?

(b) whether Voluntary Health Association of India or any other National bodies working on health involved in the formation of the new set up.

(c) Will it not be viable to strengthen the existing agencies in the voluntary sector rather than creating a new infrastructure?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: There is no question of any World Organisation influencing such an organisation. This will be a voluntary movement, an autonomous body which will involve genuine social workers for a cause. There are one or two such voluntary organisations in the country but their presence is not in all parts of the country. We would like to have an organisation which will be genuinely voluntary and which will represent all the States and at that time. I will come before the House, before the people, so that genuine voluntary movement is developed in the country.

So far as money is concerned, at this time also money is given to voluntary organisations or the NGOs but I want to do away with bureaucratisation. I want to make an institution autonomous so that the social workers will be in charge of this and they will themselves decide how to build the national movement for this. We will be getting something from outside the country also, from the donor countries from outside and that money will be an additionality for this. That will not be a part of the Budget. I think this proposal which the Health Ministry has prepared is in the larger interest of the country and of the people of India and of the development of the genuine social service organisations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: I would like to know from him whether a discussion was held on the family planning devices such as, condom, pills, vasectomy and whether scientists have developed a device, namely, *"Nor plant"* in addition to all the existing devices? Under this device small sized capsules are implanted under the skin of women's arms which give guarantee against conception for a period ranging from three to five years. Later, women feel no uneasiness. Will the Government make the family planning programmes a success through *"Nor plant"* device?

[*English*]

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: He has not asked the relevant question. Since his question is pertaining to the Family Planning aspect, I do not want to say anthing

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: But this is a very important question. He should have replied.

[*English*]

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I will reply. Do not worry. The question does not pertain to it because it pertains to NGOs, the Voluntary Organisations. But since you have asked something about Nor Plant I think I have said some time ago that I have referred it back to the scientists for more research and development. As soon as that Committee makes the final recommendation, we will introduce that in the country. Till, then, it will not be introduced.